2026 Ball State University College of Fine Arts/School of Music/ Music Performance

# Secondary lessons in Jazz – Master Syllabus – MUSP 204 - 15


## Instructor: Mark Buselli
Office: room 117
Schedule varies for all students –
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Office hours: Friday 9-11am, and by appointment


**I. Course Description**
This course is a half hour lesson in Jazz Improvisation tailored to each individual.

**II. Course Objectives/Student Learning Objectives**
Students will be able to do the following when they have finished this course: Play all Major, Melodic Minor, Harmonic Minor, Dorian, Mixolydian, Diminished, and Whole Tone scales. Play over the following forms: 12 bar Blues, Rhythm changes, and standard 32 bar song form. They are also expected to memorize songs.

**III. Rationale**
Jazz is the basis for most types of commercial music today. The word "Jazz" encompasses a variety of ever-changing genres of music. The student with a solid background in Jazz will have more success than a classically trained musician especially with sight-reading, rhythms, syncopation, AND improvisation. These lessons will help the student explore their own creativity.

**IV. Course Expectations**
Attendance: attendance is required at each lesson. Two unexcused absences drops the grade one letter. The student is expected to have all material from the previous week ready to go.

**V. Performance Requirements**
Progress is expected at each of the concerts throughout the year. Students will listen to their solos and critique themselves.

**VI. Grading**

Attendance, Improvement, scale knowledge and tune memorization.

***An "A" student …*** Promptly attends all lessons, jazz concerts, AND combo concerts. This student carefully prepares all assigned material from the preceding week's lesson, memorizes their assigned tunes and, obtains all required lesson materials in a prompt manner. This student practices for 1 hour a day (outside of ensembles) on the material. Their attitude is positive and they are always eager to learn.

***A "B" student …*** Attends nearly all lessons. This student prepares the assigned material but does not memorize it. They obtain the required materials in a reasonable amount of time. They practice most days (taking a day off here and there outside of ensembles) with a mostly positive attitude and are usually eager to learn.

***A "C" student …*** Sporadically misses lessons. This student prepares a portion of the assigned material. This student eventually obtains the required lesson materials. They occasionally practice outside of ensembles (never on weekends) for about a half hour. Their attitude is indifferent, and they are okay with learning.

***A "D" student…*** Misses several lessons. This student rarely prepares material from the preceding week's lesson. This student obtains materials by the end of the semester. This student rarely practices outside of ensembles; never on a consistent basis. Their attitude is poor and they are not open to learning.

***An "F" student …*** Rarely attends lessons. This student never prepares material from the preceding week's lesson and does not obtain the required material for lessons. They do not practice outside of ensembles. Their attitude is poor and they hate learning.

This document is a contract between you (the student) and Mark Buselli (the instructor).
Signing this indicates that you have read the entire syllabus and grade explanation. It indicates that you understand the information outlined in it.

I _____ have read the syllabus and grade explanation for Jazz Improvisation lessons at Ball State University and agree to adhere to the policies spelled out in them.

Signed _____ on this date _____

Received by Mark Buselli _____ on this date _____

BSU INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES POLICY: Cell phone usage/texting during rehearsal

1) Cell phones/smart phones are not permitted at any time during rehearsal. Cell phones/smart phones should be powered down (or silenced) prior to rehearsal.
2) Cell phones/smart phones should be packed away during rehearsal; they are not to be put on stands or in sight at any time during rehearsal.
3) A student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each infraction of this policy.

This policy is in effect immediately. Your instructor will discuss this policy during the first day of class; this constitutes a "verbal warning."

Should you have any questions about this policy, please consult the instructor.

*Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found here.*

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.